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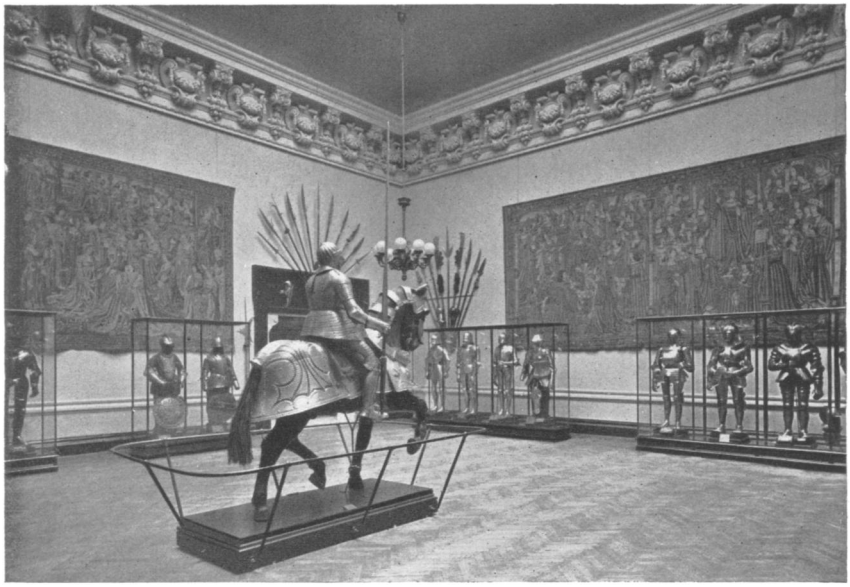

COLLECTION OF ARMS AND ARMOR, GALLERY 3

NOTES

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.—The Annual Meeting of the Benefactors, Fellows in Perpetuity and Fellows for Life, who constitute the Corporation of the Museum, will be held in the Board Room on Monday, the 15th of February, at 3 o'clock P.M.

At that time a report will be presented by the Board of Trustees concerning the work of the past year.

THE REARRANGED ARMOR GALLERY.—When the collection of Arms and Armor of the Duc de Dino-Périgord was purchased by the Museum in 1904, it was placed on exhibition in the gallery adjoining the room containing the Bishop Collection of Jade. Cases had already been provided and objects were here to be shown until more suitable means of displaying them could be secured. It was evident, however, that the armor in this collection, to say nothing of the decorated swords, daggers, and firearms, should be so exhibited that a visitor could inspect them at very close range and from all points of view. They were therefore to be given cases of appropriate height, not to be placed against the walls, and which should be as light, dust-proof, and strongly framed as modern methods would permit. Since that time suggestions have been obtained from various European experts, and it was decided to adopt the "Riggs case," which is used in the private gallery of Mr. William H. Riggs, of Paris, and is the outcome of the experiments of many years. This case is raised about a foot from the ground and has a metal frame, light, and without ornament.

In the present rearrangement of the gallery the new cases stand about three feet from the walls, and are placed at intervals, so that a visitor may examine the objects from all sides. And a better background has been provided in the lighter colored (pearl-gray) walls with their decorations of trophies, war banners, and Gothic tapestry. In this last regard the Museum expresses its thanks to Clarence H. Mackay, Esq., who, learning what was needed, lent at once from Harbor Hill his suite of four tapestries. They are of an especially appropriate period, the beginning of the sixteenth century,

when European armor was about at its apogee; and they represent courtly scenes (from the life of Louis XII and Anne of Brittany) in which armor forms an excellent setting. For the reopening of the gallery Mr. Mackay lent also the coronation sword of the Electors Palatine, Archbishops of Mayence (early seventeenth century), a half armor, part of which belonged to Philip II, a casque by Seusenhofer (early sixteenth century), and a remarkable rapier.

In a neighboring cut appears a general view of two sides of the gallery. It shows in the foreground the Louis XIII armor for man and horse acquired by the Museum during the past year; near the center of the picture are the Gothic harnesses, including one (second from the left, in the case containing four figures) borrowed from the Stuyvesant collection, and directly in front are suits of armor of Maximilian's time, with fluted surfaces. Here again one of the specimens was kindly lent by Mr. Stuyvesant. For the present the smaller arms of the collection have not been placed on view pending the completion of suitable cases. B. D.

THE LIBRARY.—The additions to the Library during the past month were one hundred and eighty-one volumes divided as follows: by purchase, one hundred and sixty-nine volumes; by presentation, twelve volumes.

The names of the donors are: Mr. Thomas L. Elder, Mr. George A. Hearn, Miss Caroline E. Lawrence Ingersoll, Comte Charles Lauckoroński, Miss Florence N. Levy, and Mr. George H. Story.

The number of readers during the month was one hundred and ninety-four.

In connection with the Exhibition of Contemporary German Art, attention is invited to a printed list of books and periodicals relating to modern German art and artists, in which reference to the works of many of the artists represented in the exhibit will be found. Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained in the Library.

PORTRAIT BY HUNT.—A portrait of Mrs. S. Grey Ward, by William M. Hunt, lent by Mr. Thomas Wren Ward, has been placed on exhibition in Gallery 12.

RECENT EGYPTIAN ACQUISITIONS.—The selection of the objects resulting from the excavations carried on during the past two years by the Egyptian Expedition at the Pyramids of Lisht, and also from other material acquired by purchase in Egypt, which has been in the Recent Accessions Room during the past two months, has now been temporarily withdrawn from exhibition.

ATTENDANCE.—The attendance for the month of December is shown in the following table:

1907		1908	
17 Free days....	27,588	20 Free days...	35,549
4 Evenings....	719	4 Evenings....	767
5 Sundays.....	32,115	4 Sundays....	20,539
9 Pay days....	2,524	7 Pay days....	2,149
	62,946		59,004

THE LOEB TRIPODS.—The two splendid archaic bronze tripods lent to the Museum by Mr. James Loeb (see the BULLETIN for March, 1907) have, with Mr. Loeb's consent, been removed from exhibition and sent to Paris to be properly cleaned, and possibly reconstructed, by M. Alfred André. The thick, crusty patina upon the surface has obscured many of the finer qualities of the modeling of the reliefs as well as the delicate engraving with which the patterns on the garments and other details were indicated, and these it is hoped M. André may be able to bring to light, in order that the full beauty of the workmanship may be appreciated. As to reconstruction, there are clear indications that the present restoration of each of the tripods is incorrect in certain important particulars. How far these can be corrected with the materials that survive, and to what extent it may be possible to determine the original shape and proportions of the tripods, including parts that are evidently missing, still remains to be seen; but at all events we may look forward to a more satisfactory solution of the problem than was achieved in the first attempt, the general character of which was fixed before the tripods were purchased by Mr. Loeb.

E. R.